



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
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*Helping People  
Help the Land*

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**To Be Sent Via Electronic Mail**

January 5, 2006

MINNESOTA BULLETIN NO. 250-6-5

SUBJECT: FNM - TOURS – 18<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Soil Science

Purpose. To transmit information on the subject tour.

Expiration Date. September 1, 2006.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) encourages attendance and participation by employees in career-related professional organizations that enhance career development and professionalism.

The 18<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Soil Science is being held July 9-15, 2006 in Philadelphia, PA. The theme is "Frontiers of Soil Science Technology and the Information Age." As part of the Congress, there are 15 tours before and after the Congress. Refer to the web site [http://www.colostate.edu/programs/IUSS/18wcsc/tours\\_preposttours.html](http://www.colostate.edu/programs/IUSS/18wcsc/tours_preposttours.html) for more information.

**NRCS does not require employees to attend any of these tours, however, NRCS supports attendance by granting approval for employees to attend these tours on official time. Employees may be reimbursed up to \$500 to offset the cost if they provide documentation stating how attending the tour is job-related and will enhance their knowledge, skills and abilities to do their job plus receive approval of their immediate supervisor with concurrence from the State Soil Scientist prior to the tour.** Use of government vehicles is not authorized. Time spent traveling outside work hours to or from these tours is not considered hours of work for overtime, compensatory time, or accrual of credit leave. Also, official time granted for traveling to or from these tours is limited to the travel time utilizing the most time-efficient mode of transportation.

Supervisors approving employees to attend these tours are to submit their names to the financial management section, cc to the State Soil Scientist, and the appropriate ASTC (FO).

WILLIAM HUNT  
State Conservationist

DIST: AE